

2002 AIR FORCE ASSISTANCE FUND
Total Contacted: 60%
Total Raised: \$6,457
2002 Goal: \$41,607
Proceeds benefit The Air Force Aid Society, The Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund, The Air Force Enlisted Foundation, The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation. Fundraiser ends March 29

Base Briefs

ROCKET CONTEST TO LAUNCH

The 6th annual Model Launch Vehicle Competition is set for March 22 at 9 a.m. at the Vandenberg Parade Ground. Launch teams are welcome from all organizations. Call 1st Lt. Larry McGraw at 606-3516 for information.

LAST CHANCE TO TAKE SURVEY

Today is the last day to participate in the Chief of Staff of the Air Force survey. Members can take the survey from a government computer at <http://csafsurvey.af.mil> or from a non-government computer at <http://www.csafsurvey.com>.

FOCUS HELD AT COMMISSARY

Vandenberg's commissary staff holds a focus group March 18 at 1 p.m. The purpose of the focus group is to gain firsthand knowledge of how well the commissary meets customers' needs. To join the group, call 734-3354 Ext. 225.

GLOBAL HEARTS POTLUCK MARCH 9

Global Hearts holds a potluck March 9 at 5 p.m. in the Chapel 1 annex for spouses with a sponsor on TDY for more than 30 days or on a remote assignment. Make reservations by Wednesday with Chaplain (Maj.) David Terrinoni at 606-5773 or Tech. Sgt. Todd Lefebvre at 606-1607.

LEGAL OFFICE CHANGES HOURS

Effective April 3, the 30th Space Wing Legal Office changes new legal assistance hours on Wednesdays. The new hours are from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Yovanne Prince, 605-6220.

14TH AIR FORCE VICE COMMANDER RETIRES

Team Vandenberg members are invited to a retirement ceremony for Col. Dale A. Elliott, 14th Air Force vice commander, March 15 at 10 a.m. in front of the P-40 display adjacent to the Headquarters Building, 10577. A reception follows the ceremony at the Pacific Coast Club.

COFFEE HOUSE TO OPEN SOON

The G.I. Java Coffee House at Bldg. 13406 opens April 12. For more information, call Senior Airman Mary Straub at 606-5773.

Aqua prepares for launch

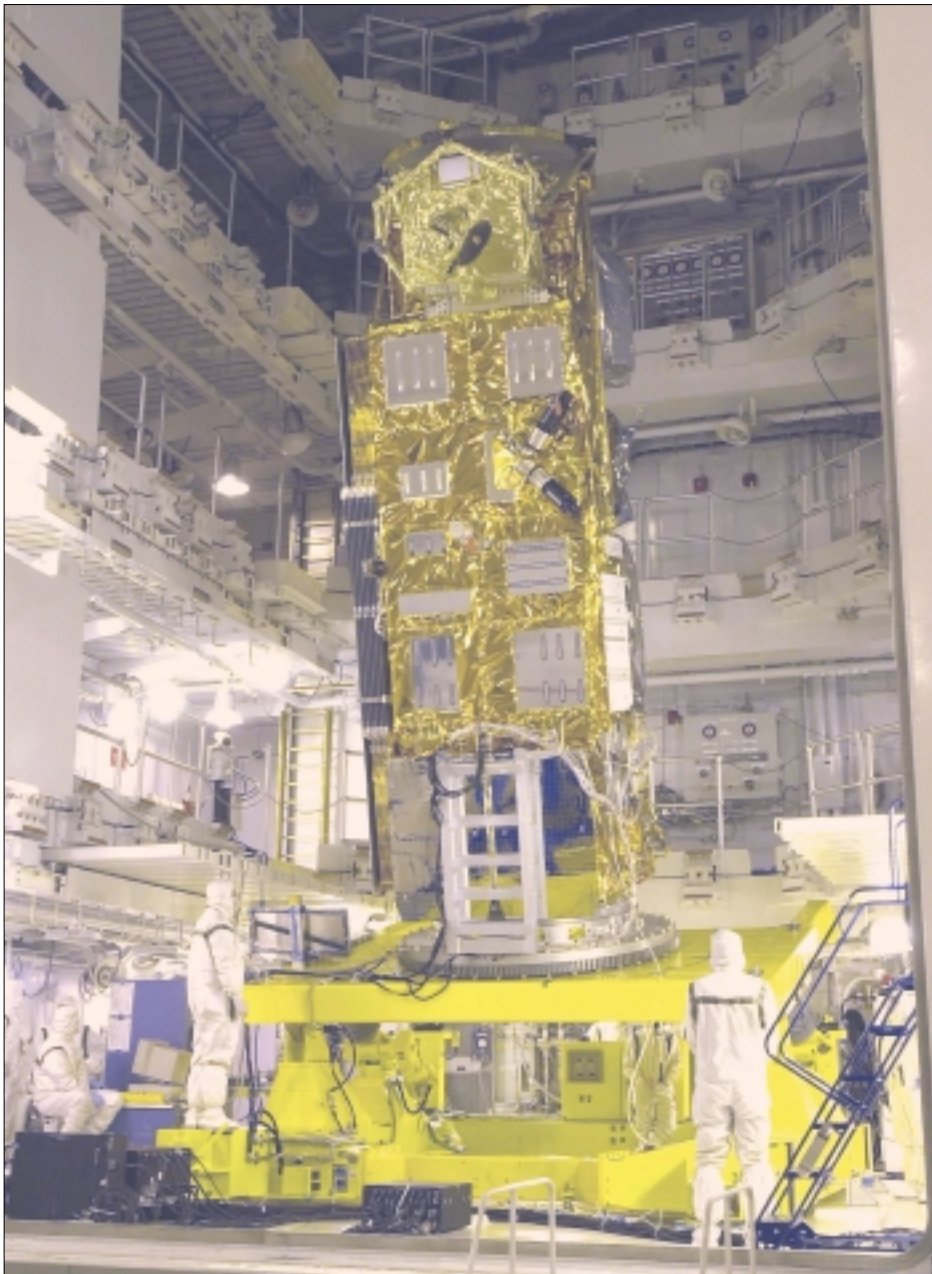


PHOTO BY DOUG GRUBEN

NASA's newest Earth-observing satellite, Aqua, is currently undergoing its final tests and pre-launch preparations. The 6,837-pound satellite arrived last month and is set to launch here in April aboard a Delta II rocket. It will collect measurements of rainfall, snow, sea ice, clouds, temperature, humidity, vegetation and soil moisture as part of NASA's research study of changes in the global environment.

Lt. Gen. DeKok retires in April

By 1st Lt. VIRGIL MAGEE

AFSPC Public Affairs

■ **PETERSON AFB, Colo.**—Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok, vice commander of Air Force Space Command, said good-bye to the service during a retirement ceremony at Air Force Space Command Headquarters Monday. He officially retires April 1.

He takes more than a scrapbook and a few mementos with him. He also is taking 34 years worth of memories of military space. "I elected to get into this business and it was an incredibly lucky decision for me. When I look back on my career, I wouldn't change a thing," said DeKok.

One year before man set foot on the moon, DeKok began his Air Force career as a space surveillance officer with the 73rd Aerospace Surveillance Wing at Tyndall AFB, Fla.

Throughout the years, he has seen the military space field grow from being a relatively minor player in the warfighters' arsenal into a fundamental tool of America's defense.

He has seen it and has helped it grow. He has commanded two space wings - the 50th Space Wing at Schriever AFB (formerly known as Falcon AFB), Colo., and the 1st Space Wing (now known as the 21st Space Wing) at Peterson. He has also commanded the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB, Calif.

In his job as the president's special assistant for national security affairs and senior director on the National Security Council for defense policy, he developed and coordinated the U.S. National Space Policy, signed by President Reagan in 1988. A year later he helped form the National Space Council in Washington D.C.

Before becoming the AFSPC vice commander, he served as deputy chief of staff for plans and programs at Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

"The biggest change I've seen since I've been around is the evolution of the space command mission. Air Force Space Command started out as an organization that only operated space systems. Now, not only do we operate the systems, but we develop them," DeKok said.

A vivid memory for DeKok is the transitional time after Desert Storm when the rest of the military realized the importance of space in the fight.

"It proved for the first time that warfighters, working with space systems, integrated properly, can help win wars and help save lives," he said. People had, at last, come to the realization that space was instrumental in the outcome of conflicts."

Leaving the Air Force, as many veterans can testify, will not be as easy as just taking off the uniform.

"There's a bond between people in uniform, a kinship that just can't be replicated once you take the uniform off," he said.

"I've been fortunate enough to work for and with a great number of incredibly talented and dedicated people.

"Words cannot describe how lucky I feel to have been a part of all of this — to have had the amazing opportunity to help shape space forces," he said.

"I have been blessed," he added.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, he said, "I hope I would be remembered as a leader who led by example and persuasion." (Courtesy of Air Force Space Command News Service)



Lt. Gen. Roger DeKok

Support Group unveils plans for base

By STAFF SGT. REBECCA BONILLA

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ From infrastructure support and force protection to child development and off-duty entertainment, the 30th Support Group stands ready to help the 30th Space Wing forge ahead with its mission.

"It's our goal to continue to improve our support of the 30th Space Wing," said Col. Steve Robinson, 30th SPTG commander. "We also want to continue to enhance the already outstanding quality of life for the men and women assigned to Vandenberg Air Force Base."

Toward that end, the support group has several projects in the works for 2002.

To begin with, the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron will spend approximately \$4.2 million on road improvements throughout the base. Some of the roads slated for work are: El Rancho Road, Quigley Road, Beach Boulevard, Utah Av-

enue and areas of the FamCamp.

The Lompoc Gate is also scheduled for a face-lift. The current guard shack is being replaced with a more contemporary facility that matches those at the Main and Solvang Gates. The new structure will offer better force protection to the security forces manning it as well as to the customers traveling through it each day.

The temporary lodging facilities behind the main lodging office are currently under renovation. Rusty out windows that couldn't be locked are being replaced and upgraded. The facility is also receiving new doors, drapes, lighting and paint as well as upgraded electrical systems.

Under a \$4.6 million replacement project, the main base cantonment area is getting 36,000 linear feet of new water mains. The two-phase project is set to begin by October.

With phase seven of the base

housing replacement project nearly complete, senior NCOs can begin moving in sometime in April. Construction on phase eight, which will house officers, is tentatively scheduled for 2005 based on the latest Military Family Housing Plan.

One of the largest projects slated for CE this year involves building a causeway on El Rancho Road across San Antonio Creek. Currently, even a light rain causes the creek to flood the road cutting off access to North Vandenberg. The \$11 million project has several environmental hurdles to satisfy before the contract is awarded in August.

Last year, the base began looking into possible sources of renewable energy. For the next 12 to 18 months, monitoring equipment at several locations around the base will collect wind data, Robinson said. Based on the results of that



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Employees of the Child Development Center and some children frolic in the playground. The CDC is one of the 30th Support Group's upcoming projects.

data, base officials will decide next year if there is sufficient wind to support a windmill farm here.

Along with base infrastruc-

ture, the support group provides force and fire protection.

See SUPPORT Page 4

Skate park opens soon

By STAFF SGT. ANDREW

LEONHARD

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Workers are nearing the end of an eight-month project to help improve the quality of life for Team Vandenberg's youth.

The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron and California Skate Park Inc. hope to have a skatepark opened in early April. The skatepark, located on Summersill Avenue behind the Child Development Center, will be turned over to the 30th Services Squadron once opened.

The drive behind the project was to give Vandenberg's youth a place to perform skating tricks such as grinds, ollies, noseslides and lipslides in a safe, legal and

fun location, said 1st Lt. Keith Klesner, 30th CES project officer.

"The base lacked outdoor recreational programs for teenage dependents," said Klesner. "This park will give our teens, and other skate boarders and in-line skaters a place to hone their skills and develop new tricks."

The new \$240,000 park, which was funded with quality of life money, performed a "trick" of it's own.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JESSICA RAMOS

Salvador Trujillo puts the finishing touches on a skate ramp. The park is scheduled to open in April.

"The time it took from concept to reality is an unbelievable pace," said Klesner. "To see this project move along so fast really

See SKATE Page 4

VSC holds auction

■ The Vandenberg Spouses' Club holds its annual charity auction Saturday at the Pacific Coast Club.

The auction is the spouses' club's largest fundraising event. The money raised goes to academic scholarships, as well as base and local charitable organizations.

The spouses' club gave away more than \$12,000 last year in scholarships and donations, according to Lynn Galick, the club's fundraising co-chair and recording secretary.

They donated money to the Red Cross, the North County Rape Crisis Center and the San Luis Obispo Children's Museum.

On base, the club supported the summer reading program at

the library, the food pantry, Airmen's Attic and the First Sergeant's Project Good Neighbor.

"I foresee most of the funds staying at Vandenberg this year," said Susan Ashley, second vice president of the club.

The theme this year is "Swinging at the USO."

Bid numbers cost \$1, but general admission is free. There will also be free food and drinks.

Galick added, "The Vandenberg Spouses' Club did some wonderful things last year. Help us continue to do great things again this year. You will have a great time doing it."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For more information about the event, call Ashley at 734-2036 or Galick at 734-4088.

This issue of the

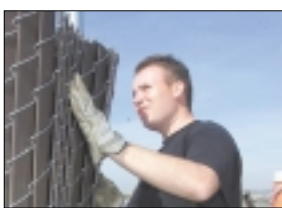


Also view The Space & Missile Times at http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/index.html



14th Air Force Flying Tigers commemorate 59 years of distinguished service.

See Page 4.



The 30th Civil Engineer Squadron begins installing fences due to beach closures.

See Page 4.

Weekend forecast
Partly cloudy with a chance of rain Sunday.

Low/High
38/65

For a full VAFB weather report visit www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather/index.html

Customer always right or should buyer beware?

BY COL. CHARLES CAMPBELL JR.
30th Medical Group Commander

Tell me if this has ever happened to you: You have a problem with a product — say your home computer. You go through well-organized files and the ever better-organized owner’s manual. Eventually, you find the phone number for customer service.

After dialing the toll-free number, you enter a voice-messaging system. It might make sense to someone – but not you.

You listen intently for the right number or symbol to press. Most of the time you end up back at the beginning of the recording. If you’re lucky, you’ll reach a real-life human being.

You calmly explain your problem only to be told, “I am sorry, but you’ll have to call back another time, because questions like the one you have are only answered on the first Friday of the month, between the hours of 8 and 8:30 a.m.”

OK, I exaggerated a little for the effect, but I think you get my point.

At one time or another, we have all experienced the extremes of customer service.

Just what is good customer service? As one Supreme Court Justice when ruling on another issue said, it may be hard to define, but you’ll know it when you see it. With customer service, sometimes you won’t know what good customer service is until you don’t receive it.

In an article entitled “How Customer Service Works,” Susan Gladin, whose company provides customer service training, said, “If you were raised with basic good manners, then you’ve got the groundwork for providing great customer service. The foundation you need is one of courtesy, caring, willingness to serve, and an attitude that lets your customers know they matter-and that you care.”

TRICARE’s Program Course

offers customer service pointers to people who provide advice about military health care to uniformed beneficiaries. I think TRICARE’s Top Ten Points on Good Customer Service cover all the highlights very well.

- ♦ Listen carefully to your customer before providing any assistance.
- ♦ Think from your customer’s perspective to understand your customer’s concern(s).
- ♦ Analyze your customer’s question and derive the root problem(s) he or she faces.
- ♦ Keep yourself up-to-date and educated with the latest knowledge in order to provide your customer accurate and current information.
- ♦ Explain information clearly, concisely and courteously.
- ♦ Respect your customer, be patient and sympathetic. Be aware of the fact the complexity of the rules, administration and policies may be difficult for an ordinary citizen to understand.
- ♦ Direct your customer to proper sources of information.
- ♦ If you do not have the information readily available, make the extra effort necessary to obtain the information for the customer.
- ♦ Always maintain a positive, pleasant attitude regardless of your mood at the moment.
- ♦ Constantly remind yourself of your ultimate purpose — serving the customers.

So, it seems pretty simple.

We should all strive to deliver service that goes beyond expectations. If we can’t help the person, we should make sure that we point, or better yet lead, them to someone who can.

Chances are you have kept or created a happy customer who will tell their family or friends how well they were treated. Think of how many more people they would have told if they were unhappy.

When it’s all said and done, good customer service simply means applying the Air Force Core Value of “Service Before Self.”

Commander’s Action line

606-7850 or e-mail your message to actionline@vandenberg.af.mil

Mission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence.

Key to the effectiveness of any great team is good communication. The 30th Space Wing Commander’s Action Line is your direct communication link to me. It provides an avenue for

you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back.

I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved in every response.

While the Commander’s Action Line is a great way to communicate, don’t forget there are many other avenues to get answers to your

questions including your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials, and many other base professionals.

Thanks for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live. When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.

A On the Friday in question, the 30th Medical Group was observing a 30th Space Wing down-day. The pharmacy remained open for prescription (new and refill) pick-up only. Based on the limited services available, the pharmacist was not available. According to medical group guidance, a pharmacist must provide oversight of all civilian prescriptions filled. For that reason, they could not fill any civilian prescriptions on that day. I apologize for the inconvenience and up-front out of pocket expenses that you incurred. To minimize out-of-pocket expenses in the future, the 30th MDG recommends active-duty people requiring urgent pharmaceutical service purchase just enough medication from the off-base facility needed until the pharmacy re-opens. The pharmacy will be happy to fill the remaining prescription quantity for you as soon as they reopen. Filing for reimbursement should take three to four weeks.

Q I’m going through a divorce and recently went to see my spouse’s commander to ask if I could move into the dorms until I could make other arrangements. The commander said I couldn’t move into the dorms and wasn’t very helpful. He told me I could stay in the house for 30 days and after that I’d have to move off base.

A Thank you for calling the action line. It’s important to understand there are specific criteria associated with living in base housing. The Air Force has spent considerable tax dollars building and maintaining dormitories for single military members as well as

housing for military members and their families. The commander was correct in not allowing you to move into the dorms – those facilities are for military only. He was also correct in telling you to vacate base housing in a timely manner – once a divorce is final, individuals are no longer authorized to stay in government-provided quarters. We wish you the best on your recovery from this difficult time.

Q In December, I tried to make a sick-call appointment, unaware that it was a down day. My ear was hurting very badly, and I was told, “Take some Sudafed and call back.” I took approxi-

mately three doses and still didn’t feel any better. The woman on duty referred me to Urgent Care in Lompoc. When I got there, my temperature was 103 degrees and I learned I had strep throat. The physician there wrote me a prescription. I called the base pharmacy and tried to get the prescription filled. They told me they were only doing refills and I would have to go to Lompoc for the medicine. Having no other choice, I went to a pharmacy in Lompoc. It cost me \$112.62. I immediately filed a claim and was told not to expect my money back for three to four months. Being an airman with bills, this hurt me financially. Is there a better solution for situations like this?

Poor choices reflect on Team Vandenberg

BY STAFF SGT. ANDREW LEONHARD
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

More than 16,000 people make up Team Vandenberg, but some of our own aren’t conducting themselves as “Team Players.”

This is evident by the recent acts of minor vandalism and property damage to base facilities reported to the 30th Security Forces Squadron. Playgrounds, older facilities and facilities under construction have all been targets.

We, the parents, brothers, sisters and neighbors of these vandals, are the front-line defenders in this battle.

Parents do you know where your children are? Who they’re hanging out with and what they’re doing? You should – their delinquent behavior can potentially result in negative repercussions and administrative action being taken against you.

Brothers and sisters step up. Ask your siblings if what they’re doing is right. Tell your parents if you see someone doing something wrong. By doing so, you’re not being a narc or “tattle-tell,” you’re being a good citizen.

Neighbors watch out for each other. If you see something out of the ordinary or a group of suspicious individuals hanging out somewhere they shouldn’t be, check it out. This is your turf. Report unlawful activity to law enforcement by calling 606-3911.

The base is spending nearly \$500,000 on a new skatepark, roller hockey rink and tennis court upgrades along Summersill Avenue. These areas are for Team V’s youth and are about improving our quality of life. They’re intended to provide our youth a safe, fun and lawful place to play.

Instead, a few delinquents have cut and torn fences down around these construction sites and have broken windows and light fixtures at the old Child Development Center.

This problem, as small as some may think it is, reflects on each and every one of us.

The contractors who are building the skating areas arrive in the morning to see the damages. They go home and tell their spouses and children how they spent half the day cleaning up after some vandals. This is not the type of feedback our base deserves nor is it indicative of the caliber of our people.

We must step up as a team and take responsibility for our children and know where they are. Know who they hang out with. Know what they do when they’re not at home.

We use the phrase Team Vandenberg a lot. Well, this team must start working together as a team and stomp out the vandalism. It takes each and every one of us to stem this activity. We can prevail if we work together and educate the wrong-doers.



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Questions regarding the paper can be directed to the *Space & Missile Times* staff at (805) 606-2040.

Don't forget AFEF during AFAF drive

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ It's nothing new for Air Force members to dig deep into their pockets to help those in need. Every year, thousands of bluesuiters sign on the dotted line pledging a few bucks a month for the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

While there are four beneficiaries of this drive, year after year the one that garners one of the smallest shares of the pie is the Air Force Enlisted Foundation.

Historically, the Foundation receives about 12 percent of the total funds generated – approximately \$560,000 per year – while the Air Force Aid Society pulls in about \$4.5 million, according to Ken Hair, AFEF director of marketing and development.

"All four organizations are very worthy charities, but we really need to try and increase our share," he wrote in a letter to all Air Force command chief master sergeants.

The Foundation supports the only nonprofit retirement community exclusively for widows, widowers and dependents of career enlisted military members. The foundation provides housing for 440 residents at two locations in Florida. Another 625 people are on a waiting list.

Unfortunately, the Foundation doesn't receive any federal, state, Medicare or Medicaid funding and many military members mistakenly believe that the mandatory \$1 deduction from their paychecks is for the Foundation. It actually goes to the U.S. Soldiers, Sailors and Airman's Home in Washington D.C.

One hundred percent of the contributions for the Foundation from the Air Force Assistance Fund go directly to subsidizing rent for the indigent residents – not for day-to-day expenses or future projects.

"The AFAF money we receive isn't for 'bricks and mortar,'" said retired Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Jim Binnicker, AFEF presi-

dent and chief executive officer. The Foundation relies heavily on non-Air Force Assistance Fund donations from private organizations and individuals to meet operating and expansion costs.

Binnicker's current quest is funding for a \$9 million assisted living facility that will house 64 residents.

"We desperately need a medical assisted living facility to take care of our own," Hair wrote. Currently, when residents can't take care of themselves independently, they are sent to live in state-supported nursing homes.

"It's the saddest part of this job – even more so than death," Binnicker said. "It's so hard to watch them pack up their belongings and wave goodbye." Some widows have been residents in the Foundation's villages for 15 to 20 years.

The new two-story center will feature all the amenities of a top-of-the-line nursing home.

To add to the meager pot of money for the much-needed facility, Binnicker envisioned a program for military retirees to support the Foundation through payroll deductions.

After nearly a year of coordination, in April 2001, Hair tested the program.

"Currently, we have about 230 participants, but there are 600,000 Air Force retirees out there," according to Cathy Landroche, AFEF deputy director for marketing, development and communications. "If everyone would allot just \$5 a month, we could have the facility built and sustain it."

"Giving through allotments is still painless," Binnicker said. "Many say, 'Give 'til it hurts.' I say, 'Give 'til it feels good.'"

For more information about retiree allotments or personal contributions in support of the Foundation's projects, call (800) 258-1413.

More Annual Award winners



PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANNE MCCORMICK

(Top left) James Jones, is the Civilian of the Year Category 2. Jones is a producer/editor from the 30th Communications Squadron's video production flight. (Above left) Tech Sgt. Kevin Schnicker is the Active-duty/DOD Civilian volunteer of the Year. Schnicker is the 2nd Space Launch Squadron NCO in charge of the spacecraft section. (Right) Tech. Sgt. Marcia Scantlebury-Hall (left) is the NCO of the Year for the Base Honor Guard. She is the NCOIC of the 30th Medical Group commander's support staff. Staff Sgt. Paula Funderburk (right) is the Airman of the year for the Base Honor Guard. Funderburk is a special actions technician for the 30th Comptroller Squadron.

Base organizations pitch in to raise money for indigent widows

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Team Vandenberg's Top Three Association, Enlisted Action Team, First Sergeant's Council, Chief's Group and Spouses' Club have teamed up to raise money for the Air Force Enlisted Foundation.

To meet their goal of raising \$1,000, the group decided to sell doughnuts – not just any doughnuts – these doughnuts come fresh from a certain shop in Ventura. The group is taking advance orders until March 19. The doughnuts arrive by the dozens on the morning of March 22, according to Master Sgt. Fred Haskell, Top Three representative for the combined committee.

At \$6 a dozen, Haskell is sure the group will meet their goal of raising \$1,000 for the Foundation.

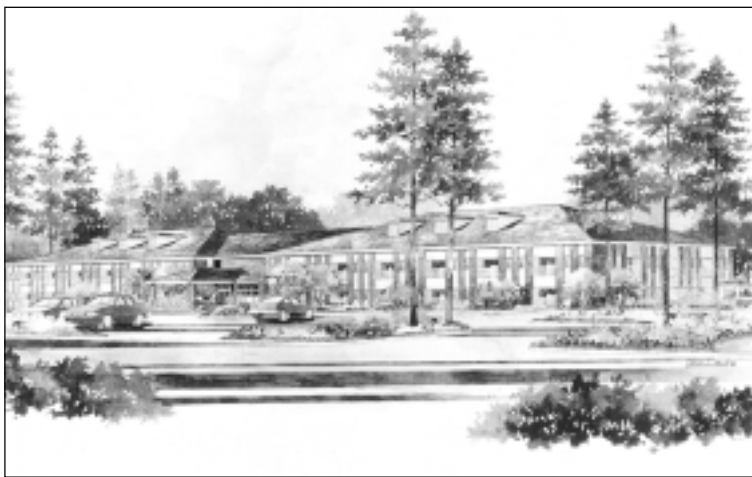
Currently, the Foundation is trying to raise \$9 million to build an assisted living facility for residents who can no longer live independently, said Ken Hair, AFEF director of marketing and development. The Foundation is one of the beneficiaries of the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign.

While 100 percent of the Air Force Assistance Fund monies received are used to subsidize indigent widows' rent, the Foundation doesn't receive federal, state, Medicare or Medicaid funding.

So, the Foundation relies on contributions from individuals and private organizations in order to fund day-to-day expenditures and build new facilities at their two sites in Florida, Hair said. To meet the Foundation's growing needs, Air Force active-duty, retired and dependents joined forces to raise the much-needed funds.

"Air Force Space Command is comprised of a group of professionals, who are committed to excellence and are people of compassion," said 30th Space Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Mike Morey. "I wanted to pool Team V's resources and be the first wing to present a check to AFSPC Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Estrem with the intent to inspire my fellow chiefs and make a significant donation at the worldwide command chief conference," Morey said.

The fact that the doughnut



CONTRIBUTED FROM AFEF

The Air Force Enlisted Foundation is currently trying to raise \$9 million to build an assisted living facility for residents who can no longer live independently.

fundraiser is during the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign is coincidence and shouldn't deter people from making their valued AFAF donation, Haskell said. To place a doughnut order, call Haskell at 606-2767 or Chief Master Sgt. John Gunther at 605-0750.

The 381st Training Group is also holding a golf tournament April 12

at Marshallia Ranch Golf Course to benefit the Foundation. The shotgun-start event tees off at 1 p.m. and costs \$10 per person. To enter, call Master Sgt. Dave Maes at 606-4840.

Air Force retirees can help by starting an allotment for the Foundation by visiting their local accounting and finance office or call the Foundation at (800) 258-1413.

Team Vandenberg warriors endure L.A. Marathon

By MASTER SGT. TY FOSTER
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ At 9:13 a.m. Sunday, eight Team V runners stood among 23,000 others as the 17th annual Los Angeles Marathon started.

"This is one of the largest marathons in the world," said Master Sgt. Ramie Nakashima, 30th Mission Support Squadron first sergeant.

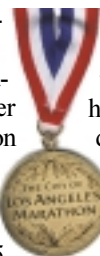
Team V's runners were:

Master Sgt. **Ramie Nakashima**, 30th MSS, 3 hours, 25 minutes, 32 seconds; Capt. **Tom Knowles**, 30th Space Wing, 3:25:43; Capt. **Jason Kent**, 2nd Space Launch Squadron, 4:03:32; Maj. **Ernie Albritton**, 2nd SLS, 4:04:46; Staff Sgt. **Michael Hayes**, 30th Security Forces

Squadron, 4:07:55; Capt. **Stacy Huser**, 534th Training Squadron, 4:16:29; Capt. **Ken Mierz**, 534th TRS, 4:49:53; Capt. **Brian Simonis**, 392nd TRS, 5:12:15.

"It really gives me a warrior's high thinking how hard a person has to train in order to complete the awesome task of crossing the finish line," Nakashima said.

The 26.2 mile race was named in honor of Pheidippides. In 490 B.C., he reported to Athens that the Greek army had defeated invading Persian warriors on the plains of Marathon. According to legend, he died of exhaustion after his 25-mile run.



Team Vandenberg Spotlight



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANNE MCCORMICK

Name: Airman 1st Class Jessica Ramos
Assignment: 30th Communications Squadron still photographic journeyman
Hometown: Philadelphia, Pa.
Time on Vandenberg: 2 years
Time in the Air Force: 2.5 years
Supervisor's Comments: "During her assignment to public affairs, Jessica's photos and energetic ideas raised the bar for the Space & Missile Times," said Master Sgt. Ty Foster, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs superintendent. "Her work honors the tradition of excellence her fellow 30th Communications Squadron photographers have given Team Vandenberg for years."
Why She loves her job: "It's a good feeling when you know that your job is not to sit an office all day. Instead, your job is to go out and take great photos of great people doing great things. In my job, you get to know a lot of people and you get to know their mission in the Air Force. You can go places were few are allowed — just because you carry a camera. I would not change my job for anything."



*Go
Team Vandenberg!*

OSI seeks new agents

■ The Air Force Office of Special Investigations is seeking enlisted, officer, and civilian applicants for special agent positions. AFOSI conducts criminal, fraud, and counterintelligence investigations. In particular, there is a high demand for people in the computer and communications AFSC's. Additionally, proficiency in a second language is highly desirable. For information, call AFOSI Detachment 804, at 606-1852.



**Heard a
rumor?
Get the
facts.**
**During crises
or
emergencies,
call the
Vandenberg
rumor control
line at
606-1857.**



Tiger history spans 59 years

CONTRIBUTED BY 14th AIR FORCE
HISTORY OFFICE

By early 1943, Brig. Gen. Claire L. Chennault, commander of the China Air Task Force, had gained fame as an outspoken advocate of fighter tactics. When 10th Air Force officials declared the CATF a surplus unit, they stood the unit down and replaced it with a new U.S. military unit March 10, 1943 - the 14th Air Force was born. Under the command of newly promoted Maj. Gen. Chennault, the Flying Tigers remained headquartered at Kunming, China, until August 1945.

To counter an enemy force of about 450 aircraft, Chennault and his team employed 170 aircraft - mostly fighters and one squadron of medium bombers. By December 1943, the Tigers had 270 aircraft against the enemy's forces that by then numbered 750 planes. Both sides continued to bolster their forces during the war.

Despite the enemy's numerical superiority, the Flying Tigers outperformed their foes.

To beat back his opponent, Chennault brought in a seasoned team. Many of them were airline captains, recalled to active duty, and were early graduates of the Air Corps Flying School or, as the pilots called it, "The West Point of the Air."

They came from all over the United States and represented all ethnic groups. They had courage and knew how to fly. They acknowledged war was a calculated risk and took on the seemingly hopeless task of keeping China in business against a strong Japanese force.

Flying an aging fleet, the Flying Tigers weren't exactly equipped for flying through raging storms over those monstrous mountains along the "Hump." Yet, they accepted their mission to sustain life and strengthen a war-torn nation besieged by a strong enemy.

Their record of achievement remains unparalleled in the annals of World War II. Chennault was a brilliant air strategist. He never lost an air battle to the enemy. He

produced a viable fighting force in spite of continuous obstacles.

From a handful of obsolete airplanes and less than 200 men, the 14th AF flew on to success inspired by the indefatigable will of its leader. The record of U.S. airpower in China will long remain one of the highlights of Air Force history because of the Flying Tigers.

The 14th AF celebrates its 59th anniversary Sunday. Throughout the years, it has performed many missions with a record of excellence that has lived up to its prestigious World War II start.

With five assigned wings, today's 14th AF mission is vastly different, but no less important to national security.

Headquartered at Vandenberg AFB since July 1, 1993, their mission now includes global and theater space operations, satellite communications, weather mapping, early warning, space navigation, space superiority operations, spacelift from both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and space surveillance.

Through its 614th Space Operations Squadron, the 14th AF manages the Space Air Force's Aerospace Operations Center, a synergistic command and control weapon focused on planning and executing the employment of SPACEAF forces, with integration into global military operations. The 14th AF serves as the U.S. Space Air Force component to U.S. Space Command.

Over the past 59 years, the 14th Air Force Flying Tigers have put the war in warrior. They've come from flying an obsolete group of fighters to operating the nation's high-tech equipment as guardians of the high frontier. From their beginnings as a more-than-capable regional flying force, they've evolved into a force capable of tracking and managing national defense operations around the world from outer space.

Despite the units' evolution, the men and women who carry on the tradition set forth by Chennault share a common bond. They're all Flying Tigers.

Beach Hotline: 606-6804



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN ANNE MCCORMICK

30th Civil Engineer Squadron Heavy Equipment Operator, Airman 1st Class Jody Silva, raises a barrier fence at Ocean Park Beach to secure the area for the Snowy Plover. All areas of Surf, Wall and Minuteman beaches are closed until further notice. The target date for opening the beaches is April 5. For beach status, call the Beach Hotline at 606-6804.

SKATE: Teens practice safely

From Page 1

shows the base's desire to improve Vandenberg."

During the project, concerns were always centered on the safety of the skaters.

Base officials are reviewing the overall safety policy. Meanwhile, skaters and parents are required to follow certain rules.

"Parental supervision is the most important concern," said Paul Rudd, 30th Space Wing Ground Safety. Children under the age of 10 must be supervised by an adult while playing at the skatepark, Rudd said.

Because of the difficulty of some of the tricks skaters perform, Rudd recommends parents accompany their children and ensure the tricks they are at-

tempting are safe for the child's ability level.

All skatepark users will be required to wear helmets with chinstraps, Rudd said.

And the helmets must have a proper fit and be strapped securely before entering the park. Officials also recommend wearing kneepads, elbow pads and gloves when using the park.

"When we participate in dangerous sports such as skateboarding, mountain biking, roller-skating, etc., the question is not if we will fall, but when we will fall," Rudd said. "When you use good risk management techniques you realize immediately that personal protective safety equipment is a necessity to avoid serious injury."

SUPPORT: Base improves facilities on Vandenberg

From Page 1

Already, base security forces are gearing up for this year's aerospace show.

"This airshow is our ORI (operational readiness inspection) for this year," said Lt. Col. Michael Prucey, 30th Security Forces Squadron commander. Security was so advanced for the air show in 2000, the commander said, that even in the wake of the events of Sept. 11, spectators shouldn't expect security to be higher than it was then.

The security forces squadron will also be "right-sizing" this year, Prucey said. Thanks to advances in technology, the unit is set to lose 115 manpower authorizations. Remote sensors now guard several positions formerly filled by people.

But that doesn't mean the base is any less protected. The commander stressed that it's important for base members to remain aware of their surroundings.

"We're a response force rather than a guard post," Prucey said. "We respond not only to electronic

sensors but to the eyes and ears of every member of Team Vandenberg."

The reduction in manpower means that the security forces augmentation program will need beefing up in order to support the unit's Aerospace Expeditionary Force commitment.

In fire protection, Base Fire Chief Mark Farias is continually striving to improve the capabilities of his unit.

According to Robinson, the fire department is only one to two months away from fielding the base's first water rescue team. The 10-man team will have two dedicated watercrafts.

This new capability won't change water access on any base beaches, Robinson said. But it does allow the department to deal with a variety of water accidents.

The staff at the Pacific Coast Club is conducting focus groups to find out what the men and women assigned here really want at their club. The first group

showed an overwhelming demand for Cook-Your-Own-Steak and comedy nights.

In response, the club hosts Comics on Duty, March 15. Cook-Your-Own-Steak nights are the third Friday of each month, except in March when it's March 22.

The 30th Mission Support Squadron is not to be left behind on the improvements for 2002.

In September, the customer service staff begins issuing the new Defense Department military identification or common access card. The new card is imbedded with a microchip for storing personal information and a magnetic strip to allow coded building access.

Looking beyond this year, the support group is set to build a new Fitness Center in 2005 and a new Education Center in 2006. An expansion of the Child Development Center is also slated for 2006.

"Although the quality of life at Vandenberg is extremely good," Robinson said, "we can always make things better."

1. Parents are responsible for their children of all ages. Children under the age of 10 must be supervised by an adult.
2. All skate park users are required to wear helmets with chinstraps. All helmets must have a proper fit and must be strapped securely before entering the park. Kneepads, elbow pads and gloves are highly recommended.
3. Athletic footwear is required.
4. Use of Skate Park is for authorized ID card holders and guests.
5. The skate park is intended for skateboard and in-line skating activity only. No bicycles, scooters or foot traffic.
6. Use of alcohol, tobacco products and illegal substances is prohibited inside the park and the surrounding area. Weapons are prohibited, and anyone found with a weapon on his/her person may face criminal charges.
7. Periodic checks of the park may be made and breaking any of the above rules may result in suspension and/or termination of skateboard park privileges.
8. Being caught in the skateboard park after hours may result in being banned from park or sent to youth magistrate.

A complete set of rules will be posted at the park when it opens.



Around the Air Force

Patrick lieutenant ‘weakest link’

By 2nd Lt. Warren Comer

45th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ PATRICK AFB, Fla. — A Patrick lieutenant knows first-hand what it’s like to be told in front of millions of people “You are the Weakest Link! Goodbye.”

Second Lt. Reina Chaperon, from 45th Comptroller Squadron, was voted off in the third round of TV’s daytime “Weakest Link.”

“I didn’t win any money,” she said. “They voted me off because I missed a question about the TV show ‘Major Dad.’”

Before Chaperon flew to Los Angeles to tape the show at NBC Studios, her co-workers teased her. “They were calling me the smallest link,” she said referring to her height of 5 feet, 2 inches.

Thanks to “Major Dad” the lieutenant didn’t see any money but was delighted with the experience.

“It was still a blast,” she said.

Chaperon’s show first aired in January; however, the rerun is scheduled for sometime in April, according to network officials. (*Air Force Space Command News Service*)

Air Force shows NASCAR team 320 mph ‘pit stop’

By Capt. Kimberly Garbett

60th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

■ NELLIS AFB, Nev. — The Air Force took to the skies Feb. 28 with NASCAR driver Elliot Sadler and members of the Wood Brothers Racing team to give them a taste of the Air Mobility Command and Air Combat Command version of a 320 mph aerial “pit stop.”

A KC-10 Extender from the 9th Air Refueling Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, Calif., with the racing team aboard and a Nellis-based F-16 Fighting Falcon flying with Sadler accomplished an air refuel-

ing over Nevada’s high desert. Sadler called the flight “a ride I’ll never forget.”

For this and last year’s NASCAR Winston Cup racing seasons, the Air Force has been an associate sponsor of the Sadler-driven Wood Brothers Racing No. 21 Ford Taurus. The car displays the Air Force logo.

Sadler said he has always had great respect for the Air Force, and the aerial pit stop gave him a greater appreciation of the mission.

“It’s amazing that these planes can fly so fast and so close together even as they are refueling,” he said. “From my view in the back seat of the F-16 ... it’s unbelievable and incredible! And these guys need to have guts for the missions they are called to.”

From an Air Force recruiting and retention perspective, the relationship with NASCAR racing pays high returns, Air Force recruiting officials said.

“The national advertising we get in the most popular spectator sport in America is incredible,” said Master Sgt. Richard Lochren, a recruiting superintendent in El Paso, Texas. “The impact we have seen in our target population of mechanics and electronically oriented recruits has helped our numbers tremendously in those areas last year.” (*Courtesy of Air Force News Print Service*)

Officials pleased with first TSP window results

■ WASHINGTON — Nearly 65,000 Air Force active, Reserve and Guard members enrolled in the Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan’s first open season.

Air Force officials are pleased with the number of people who enrolled and expect more to participate in future open seasons as familiarity with the plan increases, said Maj. Jeff Keef, Air Force mili-

tary estate and special pays policy chief at the Pentagon.

People who missed the initial open season will have chances to enroll in future open seasons. The next is May 15 through July 31, followed by another, Nov. 15 through Jan. 31. Keef said this cycle will repeat annually and coincides with open seasons for all federal employees.

The plan, much like a 401(k) in the private sector, allows people to take advantage of several benefits.

“The TSP offers military members the potential to supplement military retirement significantly and also reduce current taxes by contributing from pre-tax dollars and watching tax-deferred earnings accumulate,” Keef said. “It’s also convenient. Enrollment and account management can be done from your desktop computer.”

Keef added that contributing to the plan is painless, with money going directly to TSP accounts through payroll deduction.

Participants who enrolled before the end of December and whose first contributions went to TSP from their end-of-month January pay should have received account letters with personal identification numbers by the end of February.

Once people have their PINs, accounts can be accessed on the TSP Web site or via the ThriftLine. Keef said here, people can make decisions as to how their future contributions are allocated among the five TSP funds.

More information is posted on the TSP Web site. (*Courtesy of Air Force News Print Service*)

Military, civilian feds can buy new long-term care insurance

By Army Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen Rhem

American Forces Press Service

■ WASHINGTON — A new program starting later this month will offer long-term care insurance to military and civilian federal employees and their families.

The federal Office of Personnel Management has contracted with John Hancock and MetLife insurance companies to provide this additional benefit for all federal employees and retirees.

The insurance program is designed to cover expenses associated with long-term medical care in a nursing home or in the patient’s home. Federal employees will be able to purchase the insurance for themselves or their families, including parents. Federal retirees are entitled to enroll only themselves and their spouses in the program, according to information on the program’s Internet home page, www.opm.gov/insure/ltc.

An early enrollment period is scheduled from March 25 to May 15, followed by an open-enrollment season beginning July 1. Applicants may be required to answer health-related questions, provide medical records or be interviewed personally to be eligible for the insurance.

Program managers haven’t announced premiums yet, but rates will vary based on amount of coverage, type of inflation protection chosen and current age of the person being covered.

Air Force Boxers Take Five Titles

By Wayne Amann

37th Training Wing Public Affairs

■ LACKLAND AFB, Texas — The Air Force boxing team finished a disappointing third at the Armed Forces Championships in mid-February.

Career Focus Program strives to increase spouse employment

By Tinisha Agramonte

Career Focus Manager

■ The Air Force Career Focus Program helps Vandenberg spouses find jobs.

Last quarter, the program assisted 32 family members secure on- and off-base employment with federal, contractor and private employers. This quarter, the program focuses on increasing job opportunity awareness by outreaching efforts with base contractors.

The Family Support Center program focuses on spouses who are interested in re-entering or entering the work force and assists family members by providing a focal point for job-related resources. Services range from resume writing and interviewing technique consultations and workshops to job referrals. All are designed to help spouses successfully market themselves and gain employment.

Maintaining good network systems with employers to keep abreast of current job opportunities, along with successfully evaluating a spouse’s experience to make appropriate referrals, is key to the program’s success. This is a component that human resource professionals can appreciate.

“Thanks to the referral from Career Focus Program, a spouse was able to fill a critical position in our company,” said Carmelita Lopez, Human Resources for L3 Communications. “Their staff member’s eye for detail in screening applicants allowed our management team to utilize their time more efficiently during the application and interviewing process.”

FSC HOLDS WORKING BREAKFAST

The Family Support Center will hold a Career Focus Program continental breakfast meeting March 21 from 8 to 9 a.m. at the Family Support Center, Bldg. 10525.

The breakfast is open to all human resource professionals to help develop a community/corporate partnership.

Colonel Robert M. Worley II, 30th Space Wing commander, is the guest speaker. For more information, call Tinisha Agramonte at 605-8557.

For spouses who live on the base, the close proximity between their home and workplace, competitive salaries and an opportunity to work within a familiar government environment is highly desired.

“I was amazed that I was able to find employment on the base in my desired career field,” said Janna Farrier, who found employment with Dynamic Concepts Incorporated through a referral from CFP.

“When my husband received orders to Vandenberg, I was concerned that I would not be able to continue working in the telecommunications industry or retain a comparable salary,” she

said. “This job allowed me to do both.”

Many spouses, who are uprooted from their jobs during a permanent change-of-station move, share Farrier’s fears.

Updating a resume, preparing for an interview, and embarking on a job search can be overwhelming. In these situations, CFP provides traditional services, and also boost self-esteem for those looking for jobs.

Employers are often hesitant to hire military spouses, because of the constant moves. While PCSes are a reality, studies have shown that military spouses have a great deal of loyalty and commitment to their jobs.

Military spouses represent a gamut of professional occupations and educational levels and have learned to successfully adapt to new environments quickly. They are also adept at communicating with diverse people at all levels and working independently, especially during deployments. CFP staff members point out these benefits of hiring spouses to employers.

The CFP has shown that military spouses can and will do the job — if given the opportunity.

For more information about the program, call the Family Support Center at 605-8557.

Shoppers can survive commissary changes

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Leonhard

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ The Vandenberg Commissary is closed Tuesday because the Defense Commissary Agency is making changes in product placement on commissary shelves during store “resets.”

The store is open again Wednesday.

While the main store is closed, the Mini-Com is open Monday and Tuesday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Customers aren’t allowed in the main store after 5 p.m. Sunday.

Steve Sones, chief of the Marketing Business Unit’s Reset and Planogram Team at DeCA said although no two commissaries are constructed exactly alike, the changes will create a customer-friendly flow.

“This means dog food will be next to pet supplies instead of the charcoal, and peanut butter is best found next to the jam,” he said.

“You shouldn’t have to cruise three different aisles to find all your

cleaning products. It’s a simple matter of making the commissary layout more sensible by “resetting” the store,” Sones said.

DeCA Director, Air Force Major General Robert J. Courter, Jr., is intent on making the commissary shopping experience faster and easier — making it the place to shop for day-to-day food needs and not just for stocking up on pay day.

One of the priorities is to help busy, active-duty shoppers make a quick run through their commissary and get home quicker. To make this a reality, baby food, snacks and other grab-and-go items will be moved to the front of the aisles for easier access. Ideally, customers won’t have to shop the entire store to find a few necessary items.

Vandenberg Store director Randy Epps, welcomes his shoppers back Wednesday at 9 a.m. with a “Grand Reopening.”

“There will be free food and drawings,” said Epps.



AWARD RECOGNITION FEATURE ARTICLE

■ The *Space & Missile Times* plans to feature all unit and individual command-level awards that Team Vandenberg has received for the 2001 awards program.

The deadline for submitting the award information for this feature is March 29. Publication is slated for April 12. Late submissions will be published on a space available basis. For information, call 606-2040 or e-mail space&missiletimes@vandenberg.af.mil

Welcome home!



PHOTO BY LT. COL. K.E. WARREN

A member of the 920th Rescue Group at Patrick AFB, Fla., greets his children after returning last week from a three-month deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Southern Watch.

EVENTS

9 SAT The **Global Hearts Support Group** hosts a potluck gathering Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Chapel Annex. Beverages are provided. Call Tech. Sgt. Todd Lefebvre at 606-1607 for information.

10 SUN The **Chapel Community Night** is every Sunday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Religious Education Bldg. classrooms. For more information, call Jill Hembroff at 734-1360, Sharon Egan at 734-4102, or Chaplain Husfelt at 606-5773.

The **Protestant parish** begins a weekly event for the whole family Sunday. A time for praise, worship and fellowship begins at 5:30 p.m. Sunday. Classes for the whole family begin at 6 p.m. Opportunities include practical teaching for dealing with life's challenges for adults, BIG meeting at Youth Center for teens and children's classes on learning to worship God through song. For more information, call Jill Hembroff at 734-1360, Sharon Egan at 734-4102, or Chaplain Husfelt at 606-5773.

11 MON Pregnant? Planning a family? Attend the 30th Medical Group's **Operation Baby Launch** Monday at 5 p.m. at the Vandenberg Clinic auditorium located at 338 South Dakota Street. This is a great opportunity to learn valuable information on resources available from civilian representatives from our two local hospitals, TRICARE financial concerns, Vandenberg AFB Family Practice Clinic and much more. Receive a free formula kit, gifts and a free raffle from representatives. Spouses and partners are welcome, no registration is necessary. Call Capt. Stacy Rosales at 605-8254 or Nancy Sias at 606-8217 for more information.

13 WED The Health and Wellness Center offers a **healthy cooking breakfast** Wednesday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Service Center. The breakfast supports the Women's History Month information fair. For information, call the HAWC at 606-2221.

To the colors!



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEVE SCHESTER

(Left to right) **Airman 1st Class Nimfa Mananggit, 30th Transportation Squadron, Staff Sgt. Marvin Banks, 30th Operations Group, Senior Airman David Lucas, 30th Communications Squadron and Airman 1st Class Yasmin Alvarez-Sanchez, 392nd Training Squadron**, post the colors during the playing of the National Anthem March 1 at the Staples Center in Los Angeles before the Lakers played the Indiana Pacers.

15 FRI The **Air Force Aid Society** provides a \$1500 grant for undergraduate studies for dependent sons and daughters of active duty, retired, deceased and Title 10 Air National Guard and Reserve members. The grant is also available to some spouses. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted in an accredited college, university or vocational school for the 2002-2003 academic school year. Application deadline is March 15. Call Lyn Smith for more information.

16 SAT The **Allan Hancock College Concert Band** continues its popular public concert series March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church

on Santa Maria Way in Santa Maria. For ticket information, call 922-6966 or toll free 1-866-342-5242, Ext. 3252.

29 FRI The **Vandenberg Spouses' Club** offers scholarships to college-bound students demonstrating exceptional commitment to academic excellence, extracurricular activity and community involvement. Class of 2002 dependents of active duty, retired, or deceased military members are eligible to apply. This also includes California-based home schooled seniors and spouses of active duty or retired military members. Poeple intrested should contact their high school counselor or Terri Hatten at 734-0282. Applications must be received by March 29.

APRIL 20 SAT **Special Olympics** returns to Vandenberg April 20 at the base track.

The Vandenberg Special Olympics committee needs several hundred volunteers to be athlete escorts, event workers, set-up/tear-down teams and more. Anyone from Team Vandenberg can volunteer. Call Capt. Trevor Flint at 606-0101 to volunteer.

MEETINGS

12 TUE **Vandenberg's Single Parents' Support Group** meets for lunch every second and fourth Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Pacific Coast Club. The group is open to Vandenberg's military and civilian single parents. The

next meeting is Tuesday.

The **Trenchard Society** holds its first brown-bag lunch meeting March 12 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the base library. They will be discussing "Heart of the Storm." The Trenchard Society is a round-table discussion group encouraging officer participation in the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's reading program. It also promotes professional development and an understanding of the issues and ideas found in the literature. For more information, contact the base library at 606-6414 or 1st Lt. Henry Heren at 605-1338.

Air Force Sergeants Association general membership meeting is Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Base Services Center, Bldg. 10122. The meeting is open to all AFSA members and any enlisted member or retirees desiring to join. For questions, call Tech.

Sgt. Debra Wheeler at 606-2563.

13 WED The **Women's History Month Committee** meets Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Bldg. 10577, Room 108. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Jen Burger at 606-1541, Ext. 3625.

The **National Society of Military Widows**, Central Coast Chapter 44 meets the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting is March 13. Guest speaker Stacy Sherwood speaks on home and long-term healthcare issues. Widowers are also welcome. The meeting takes place at 2 p.m. in the Retiree Activities Office. For more information, call 606-5474.

An **Asian Pacific-American Association** meeting is Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the 381st Training Group conference room, Bldg. 8290, 1472 Nevada Ave. If you are unable to attend, but would like to provide some input, please contact Senior Airman Buasy Nanhta at 606-2328. The association needs a high-profile guest speaker for the banquet, volunteers for an Asian food sale in April and ideas for activities during Asian-Pacific Heritage Month in May. Participants do not have to be of Asian decent to be a member of the APAA.

14 THU **Titan Toastmasters** meet every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Base Library. Participants can learn how to speak effectively in a no-pressure, supportive environment. Meetings are open to all interested parties. For information, call Bruce Henderson at 606-1541, Ext. 3627 or Chief Master Sgt. Archie Mitchell at 605-8081.

Members of the 30th Security Forces Squadron serve as hosts and waiters during **Red Lobster's "Cops and Lobsters" fundraiser** in Santa Maria March 15 and 22. All proceeds go toward Special Olympics. For information, call Staff Sgt. Derek Greene or Staff Sgt. Rebecca Faalzadeh at 605-0569.

The Base **Training Managers Quarterly Meeting** is March 15 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Bldg. 16130, Room B. For information, call John Williamson at 605-5911 or Percy Anderson at 605-5912.

AT THE MOVIES

Today and Saturday
Black Hawk Down

Starring Josh Hartnet, Tom Sizemore, Ewan McGregor, Sam Shepard and William Fichtner.

The film takes place in 1993 when the U.S. sent special forces into Somalia to bring food and humanitarian aid to the starving population. Using Black Hawk helicopters to lower the soldiers onto the ground, an unexpected attack by Somalian forces brings two of the helicopters down immediately. From there, the U.S. soldiers must struggle to regain their balance while enduring heavy gunfire. Rated R.

Sunday
A Walk to Remember

Starring Mandy Moore, Shane West, Peter Coyote, Daryl Hannah and Clayne Crawford.

Set in the lowlands of North Carolina in the mid 1990s, "A walk to Remember" follows the rite of passage of a jaded, aimless high school senior (Shane West) as he falls in love with a guileless young woman (Mandy Moore) he and his friends once scorned. Rated PG.

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

S_{30th} Services



NEWS



B O W L I N G
C E N T E R

Saturday!

Check in
at
5:30 p.m.,
bowl
at
6 p.m.

**5-GAME
MARATHON**
Men's and Women's Divisions

Cost: \$20 per entry. There will be two divisions if enough entries. Entry fee includes side pot.

Come and join the fun!

Call 734-1310 for more information.

Join the fun at the* **PACIFIC COAST CLUB

for Membership
Appreciation Night!
March 15



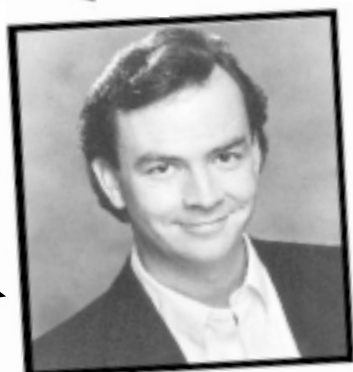
★
★
BLAKE
CLARK



★
★
DANNY
VILLALPANDO



★
★
BIL
DWYER



★
★
JOHN
BAZARRE

5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Members' Social Hour in the Ballroom
7 to 8:30 p.m. - Showtime**

In appreciation for all your support during our membership drive the show will be **FREE** to club members.

Bonafide guests and spouses, **\$10** - Eligible non-members, **\$20** (at the door)

**Recommend age 17 and above - potential adult material.*

V.I.T.T.

V a n d e n b e r g L e i s u r e T o u r s



**PRICE IS RIGHT
TV Taping**

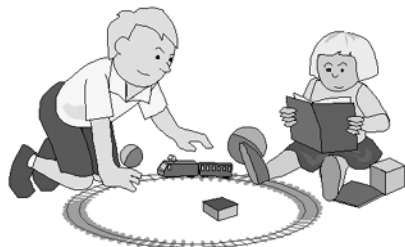


April 10

\$40 per person

Must be 18 years old with 2 forms of ID.

Transportation by
luxury restroom-equipped motorcoach.
For more information, call 606-7976.



***What is Family
Child Care?***

Family Child Care is the care of any child or children in the home of another person or family. The Air Force further defines FCC as 10 hours or more of care, weekly, on a regular basis in government quarters. There is usually a group size limit of six children, ranging in age from 6 weeks to 12 years. The provider's children, under the age of nine, are included in this limit. The number of children allowed in the home may be less, depending on insurance liability or the size of the home.

A good FCC home will provide high quality care within a safe environment. In addition to attentive supervision, age appropriate activities must be offered to promote children's development. Physical, social/emotional, and cognitive growth must all be considered. Learning experiences that offer times of discovery and feeling successful will help promote children's positive self-esteem.

FCC encourages "hands-off for adults and hands-on for children" during activities. There are many great advantages of Family Child Care!!

To learn more about becoming a licensed FCC provider, contact FCC Coordinator Gwen Jones at 606-4639/3255.

BOWLING

SATURDAY and SUNDAY -
Rancho Bowl in Santa Maria is hosting Missile Cities Women's Bowling Association Annual Tournament. Entries are available at Vandenberg Bowling Center.

GOLF

SATURDAY -
Two-person Best Ball Tournament

FITNESS

SATURDAY -
Indoor Cycling, 8 to 8:45 a.m., Services Center

MONDAY -
AM Abs, 7:05 to 7:20 a.m., Fitness Center
Basketball Court

TUESDAY -
Women on Weights, 9 to 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY -
Indoor Cycling, 4:30 p.m., Services Center.

Sign up for Run/Walk Across America at the front desk!

For more information, call 606-3834.

YOUTH CENTER

**SUMMER CAMP
REGISTRATION**

Registration for the Youth Center's School Age Program Summer Camp begins April 1. Registration is open for all children who will have completed Kindergarten by June 6. Priority is given to those currently enrolled. Camp runs June 6 through mid-August. For more information, call the Youth Center at 606-2152.

**Keep a lookout for
future 4-H events at the Youth Center!**
Call the Youth Center for more information on the 4-H rabbit group at 606-2152.

SWIMMING POOL

SWIM TEAM -

The Central Coast Marlins is a competitive year-round swim team for children ages 5-18. If you can swim 25 meters non-stop, then we need you! Fees vary depending on swimming abilities. Come try out, the first week is free.

WATER AEROBICS -

Have a great workout and have fun at the same time without the impact of land-based exercise programs. Cost: \$3 per class or \$20 a month. For more information, call Jennifer at 606-3581.

O U T D O O R R E C R E A T I O N

*Time to
Join
the...*



TOURNAMENT MEETING

Wednesday, 5 p.m.

Equipment Checkout, Bldg 11238

Tournament Date: March 17, 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bass Club General Information:

\$10 for one-year membership, **\$15** fee for each tournament.

\$5 pot for biggest bass caught!

Two meetings per month, held Wednesday before each tournament.

No boat necessary; club can pair you with someone who has a boat or you may rent a boat for 50% off normal price of daily rental.

Call Outdoor Rec at 606-5908 for more information.

The Youth Sports Advisory Council

will be holding their next meeting March 21 at the Youth Center Annex (Bldg 16156, next to the Youth Center). The meeting will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Come on out and help make a difference in the youth sports programs on Vandenberg AFB!